

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 4, wherein a diameter of the nozzle exceeds the diameter of the exit by more than approximately 1.5 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, An underwater laser processing apparatus, comprising:

an optical unit that irradiates a condensed laser beam generated by a laser source to a certain point of an underwater workpiece; and

a nozzle having a gas exit for supplying gas to the certain point,

wherein the nozzle comprises an area surrounding the gas exit extending to the surface of the workpiece for keeping the supplied gas between the nozzle and the workpiece,

wherein the nozzle is formed as a disk having a flat surface area extending in a circumferential direction thereof and having the gas exit at the center thereof, and

wherein the nozzle has a circular groove extending in a circumferential direction thereof on the surface facing the workpiece.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, further comprising a welding wire exit that supplies a welding wire to the certain point.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the welding wire exit is a wire tip disposed in the nozzle.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, wherein the optical unit irradiates the laser beam at an angle to the workpiece.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, further comprising a bush that prevents a reflected laser beam from entering the laser source.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, wherein the optical unit comprises a collimator lens that makes parallel the laser beam from the laser source, and a condenser lens that condenses the parallel laser beam.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a dichroic mirror that separates visible light from the laser beam and inputs the separated visible light to an image sensor.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, further comprising an adjuster that adjusts a gap between the nozzle and the workpiece.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein the adjuster comprises a roller that rolls on the workpiece.

13. (Cancelled).